
CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Media Day at the CDF Academy

Reporters and Photographers Invited to Participate in Firefighter Training Exercises

Sacramento- What is it like to drive a fire engine with the siren blaring? What is it like to crawl through a smoky building and rescue someone? How does it feel to drive a response vehicle on slick pavement and pull it out of a slide? Or save someone using the Jaws-of-Life? News reporters and photographers will soon have the chance to find out.

On Friday July 28, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will open its academy to the press so that reporters and photographers can get first-hand experience with the kind of training our firefighters go through. "We'll let media representatives drive fire engines, suit up in turnouts and crawl through a smoky building, and tear a car apart using the Jaws-of-Life. It should be fun, and informative", said Bill Cote, Academy Administrator.

"Since the CDF is a full service fire department, we provide a lot of different types of training at the Academy. Reporters who cover us this fire season should develop a deeper appreciation about what our folks are doing out there," said Chief Deputy Director Woody Allshouse. "For instance, we have to be able to get to an incident before we can handle it, and sometimes that means traveling on slick roads, and navigating through and around obstacles. On the 28th we will let reporters drive on the skid pan and navigate the obstacle course." (The skid pan is a wet concrete surface on which firefighters are trained to get out of a skid while driving a engine. Reporters will be driving in sedans).

These are some of the activities being offered:

- Drive a fire engine through an obstacle course (including backing up)
- Participate in a “rescue” using the Jaws of Life to take a car apart
- Drive a sedan on the skid pan
- Crawl through a smoky building and rescue a “victim” (smoke is non-toxic)
- Fight a wildfire in a miniature community
- Deploy a fire shelter in 30 seconds or less.
- Unless they are dispatched on a fire, we’ll also have a helicopter “short haul” rescue demonstration.

Wear comfortable clothes and shoes to experience first-hand the training of the firefighters who will be protecting the lives and property of California this fire season.

CDF Academy

4501 State Highway 104

Ione, California

(209) 274-2426

Take Highway 99 to 104 (Rancho Seco exit). The Academy is about 10 miles past Rancho Seco. Allow for a one-hour drive from Sacramento. Although late comers are welcome, if you can confirm attendance we would appreciate it. We will be providing lunch.

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